AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) An isolated coryneform bacterium wherein an argR gene on a chromosome of the bacterium is disrupted, and the argR gene has the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17 or is obtained from chromosomal DNA of the bacterium by PCR under a condition with oligonucleotide primers having a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16, wherein said condition is sufficient to amplify at least an internal portion of the argR gene.

3. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein the argR gene encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:18 or an amino acid sequence which is encoded by an argR gene, which is obtained from chromosomal DNA of the bacterium by PCR with oligonucleotide primers having a nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a species selected from the group consisting of

Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum,

Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum,

Corynebacterium alkanolyticum,

Corynebacterium callunae,

Corynebacterium glutamicum,

Corynebacterium lilium,

Corynebacterium melassecola,

Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes,

Corynebacterium herculis,

Brevibacterium divaricatum,

Brevibacterium flavum,

Brevibacterium immariophilum,

Brevibacterium lactofermentum,

Brevibacterium roseum,

Brevibacterium saccharolyticum

Brevibacterium thiogenitalis,

Brevibacterium album,

Brevibacterium cerinum, and

Microbacterium ammoniaphilum.

7. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a species selected from the group consisting of

Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum,

Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum,

Corynebacterium alkanolyticum,

Corynebacterium callunae,

Corynebacterium glutamicum,

Corynebacterium lilium,

Corynebacterium melassecola,

Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes,

Corynebacterium herculis,

Brevibacterium divaricatum,

Brevibacterium flavum,

Brevibacterium immariophilum,

Brevibacterium lactofermentum,

Brevibacterium roseum,

Brevibacterium saccharolyticum

Brevibacterium thiogenitalis,

Brevibacterium album,

Brevibacterium cerinum, and

Microbacterium ammoniaphilum.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of sulfa drugs, 2-thiazolealanine, and α-amino-β-hydroxyvaleric acid.

10. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of sulfa drugs, 2-thiazolealanine, and α-amino-β-hydroxyvaleric acid.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium exhibits auxotrophy for a compound selected from the group consisting of L-histidine, L-proline, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-methionine, and L-tryptophan.

13. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium exhibits auxotrophy for a compound selected from the group consisting of L-histidine, L-proline, L-threonine, L-isoleucine, L-methionine, and L-tryptophan.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of ketomalonic acid, fluoromalonic acid, and monofluoroacetic acid.

16. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of ketomalonic acid, fluoromalonic acid, and monofluoroacetic acid.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of arginol and X-guanidine, wherein X is derived from a fatty acid or aliphatic chain.

19. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium of Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium is resistant to a compound selected from the group consisting of arginol and X-guanidine, wherein X is derived from a fatty acid or aliphatic chain.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of producing L-arginine, comprising culturing the coryneform bacterium of Claim 2 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium, and collecting the L-arginine from the medium.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of producing L-arginine, comprising culturing the coryneform bacterium of Claim 3 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium, and collecting the L-arginine from the medium.

22. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a genus selected from the group consisting of the genus Corynebacterium, the genus Brevibacterium, and the genus Microbacterium.

23. (Previously Presented) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 3, wherein said coryneform bacterium belongs to a genus selected from the group consisting of the genus Corynebacterium, the genus Brevibacterium, and the genus Microbacterium.

24. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein said isolated coryneform bacterium is a recombinant coryneform bacterium.

25. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein said isolated coryneform bacterium is a transformed coryneform bacterium.

26. (New) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein said condition comprises annealing at 58°C.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 2 has been amended.

Claims 24-26 have been added.

The amendment of Claims 2 is supported by the specification at page 13, line 5 to page 14, line 27. New Claims 24-25 are supported by the claims and the specification as originally filed, including the Examples of the present application. New Claim 26 is supported by page 23, line 21 to page 25, line 19.

No new matter is believed to have been entered by the present amendment.